

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the office action dated April 29, 2008, and completion of the personal interview of July 9, 2008. The Examiner's observations and suggestions are much appreciated and summarized herein. The Examiner's withdrawal of previous rejections and of the finality of the previous Office Action is noted with appreciation. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, and 9, and 11 are currently pending.

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,407,820 to Hansen et al. (hereinafter, "Hansen") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,088,462 to Bhogal et al. (*hereinafter*, "Bhogal"). In view of the amendments and arguments set forth below, it is submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinct over the art of record.

An embodiment of the subject application is directed to a system and method for printing electronic files. An electronic file representative of a document is received as well as a print instruction via an application associated with the electronic file. A print driver is enabled corresponding to at least one associated document output device in accordance with the received print instructions, and a user is prompted, via the print driver, for print setting information corresponding to the electronic file, the printer finishing configuration setting information including at least one of a desired property including stapling, hole punching, output destination, number of copies, orientation, collating, and finishing. In a typical document rendering, such settings are subject to a default setting in a driver, which default setting may be altered in connection with a particular print job. A subsequent re-printing of that job will result in reinstitution of default settings, which may be different than those customized settings used previously. Alternatively, a default setting may be altered, resulting in different settings for subsequent print jobs that are unrelated. The printer finishing configuration setting information data is generated and stored in an associated storage. The printer finishing configuration setting information data is associatively stored with the electronic file such that a subsequent recall of the electronic file automatically retrieves print setting information data associated therewith. The electronic file is converted to an image file, and a print job is created in accordance with the image file and the print setting information data. A user selects a print job for output to at least one selected destination, the at least one selected destination including at least one of a printed

copy of the document, an electronic mail inclusive of the image file, and an electronic copy of the image file. At least a first copy of the image file is output, via the at least one document output device, in accordance with received output request data. A second output request is received from the user to output at least a second output of the electronic file. The electronic file and the associatively stored print setting information are retrieved from the storage in accordance with such request, and at least a second copy of the electronic file is output.

A particular advantage of the subject application is provided when a document is to be reprinted directly through a file manager, such as Windows Explorer, as opposed to interaction with a driver via an application, such as being recalled into a word processing application. Archived printer finishing options, captured via prior interaction with a printer driver, are recalled and used again. Thus, a user need not redo the finishing operations by use of the application and associated driver, nor is the user constrained to system default finishing options when printing directly through the file management system.

As discussed during the interview, Hansen is directed to a print-ticket system wherein a user must affirmatively create a print ticket and associate that ticket with an electronic file for a print operation. The subject application teaches automatically capturing printer finishing options specified by invocation of a printer driver. These finishing settings are stored with the electronic document, and automatically used the next time the document is printed.

Amendment to each of independent claims 1 and 7 has been made in accordance with the discussions of the interview and in light of the distinctions noted above. The amendment adds limitations specifying that printer finishing options are automatically intercepted when set via a printer driver. These finishing options are saved, and recalled and used the next time the electronic document is called from printing. This is removed from the teachings of Hansen and its job ticket implementation.

The deficiencies in the teachings of Hansen relative to the amended claims are not remedied by any additional teachings of Bhogal, which is cited as teaching primary and secondary printing requests for an associated document. Bhogal is directed to a system that routes a print job to a device in accordance with specified job attributes. It fails to teach the novel interception of finishing settings entered via a print driver and subsequent use of those captured options in a second rendering of the associated document.

In accordance with the afore-noted amendments and comments, it is submitted that all claims are patentably distinct over the art, and in condition for allowance thereover. An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/00008.

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Respectfully submitted,



Susan L. Mizer
Registration No. 38,245
TUCKER ELLIS & WEST LLP
1150 Huntington Bldg.
925 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1414
Customer No.: 23380
Tel.: (216) 696-3466
Fax: (216) 592-5009